



# DEPARTMENT of the INTERIOR

## news release

**Fish and Wildlife Service**

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**STEVE N. WILSON, ARKANSAS GAME & FISH DIRECTOR,**  
**APPOINTED TO THE NORTH AMERICAN WETLANDS CONSERVATION COUNCIL**

Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt today announced the appointment of Steve N. Wilson, Director of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, to the nine-member North American Wetlands Conservation Council and his election as its chair.

"I am delighted to have the benefit of Steve Wilson's experience and expertise added to this important Council," said Babbitt. "Members of the Council give generously of their time in reviewing grant applications for projects to protect and restore threatened wetland ecosystems in Canada, the United States, and Mexico."

Wilson has served as the Director of the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission since 1979. He is a past president of the International Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the Southeastern Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies, the Ozark Society, the Arkansas Chapter of the Wildlife Society, and also past chairman of the National Waterfowl Council and the Mississippi Flyway Council. He currently serves on the Sport Fish and Boating Partnership Council and the State Pollution Control and Ecology Commission, and is active in civic affairs.

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"I'm honored and pleased to serve on such a distinguished panel and to have the opportunity to help conserve wetlands and wildlife on an international level," Wilson said.

Wilson succeeds Gary Myers, Executive Director of the Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, on the Council and Matthew Connolly, Executive Vice President of Ducks Unlimited, Inc., as chair. Other appointed members of the Council include Michael Dennis, Vice President and General Council of The Nature Conservancy; Boyd Gibbons, Director of the California Department of Fish and Game; Wayne R. LaPierre, Jr., Executive Vice-President of the National Rifle Association; Bill Montoya, Director of the New Mexico Department of Fish and Game; and James A. Timmerman, Jr., Executive Director of the South Carolina Department of Wildlife and Marine Resources. By law, the Executive Secretary of the National Fish and Wildlife Foundation, Amos Eno, and Director Mollie Beattie of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service are also members of the Council.

Established by the North American Wetlands Conservation Act of 1989, the Council reviews project applications for matching grants to protect and restore wetlands and recommends them for approval to the Migratory Bird Conservation Commission. Since inception of the Act in 1989, \$105 million in Federal funds have been matched by \$202 million in partnership money to support 276 wetlands projects in 36 states, Canada, and Mexico. Senators George Mitchell of Maine and John Chafee of Rhode Island recently introduced S.1857, legislation to reauthorize the Act for another 5 years and increase the amount that can be appropriated.

A native Arkansan, Wilson received a Bachelor of Science Degree in Wildlife Management from Arkansas Tech University at Russellville. After graduate school at the University of Montana and two years as district wildlife biologist with the Arkansas Game and Fish Commission, he received a Masters of Science Degree in Zoology from the University of Arkansas at Fayetteville. He directed the Environmental Division of the Arkansas Highway and Transportation Departments from 1972 until his appointment as Director of the Game and Fish Commission. He is an avid tennis player, hunter, fisherman, and outdoor photographer. He and his wife, Jo, have two children, Stephanie and Josh.

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